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Internment Relocation Center
Community Analysis Section
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

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ONE EVACUEE'S VERSION OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE INCIDENT OF
DECEMBER 6.

I don't know the date of this kibe meeting. It was held in Kitchen 15. There the chairman opened the meeting by announcing that all loyal American citizens should get the heck out of the kitchen. Kurihara and Slocum had a clash in words. Slocum was pro-American and Kurihara was anti-American and they bitterly hated each other. At that meeting Uyeno agitated very much. Karl Yoneda was the secretary and it seemed that he put in the wrong memorandum as to the procedure of the meeting, which aroused the kibe boys to threaten him at one time. At that time the kibe boys were against the forming of the fair practice committee for the Center simply because of the fact that they thought that all JACL members would become the ones in charge. They said the JACL leaders were trying to get a hold of it, and it did look like those JACL fellows were putting themselves on everything.

So Uyeno and Tsuji (both have been pulled in since), with the help of kibe agitators, formed a kitchen work corps, which was non-cooperative and agitated against the Administration. It seemed that at that time the kitchens weren't getting their allotment of sugar and Uyeno went to complain to Campbell and asked, "Where does the sugar go to. It comes into the camp but it doesn't come into the kitchens?"

Fred Toyama had just returned from Salt Lake City from a JACL convention and the following night he got beaten up or

rather mobbed. Uyeno was pulled in on suspicion of being one of Tayama's assailants. The agitating group got together outside the grounds of kitchen 22 and demonstrated. They had a loud speaker set up on top of the oil tank. The leading agitators wanted the administration to return Uyeno to the Center within 24 hours. He was in the Independence jail. There were 5 chosen to act as spokesmen for the group who were trying to get the Administration to release Uyeno. At that meeting the agitators openly threatened to kill or get Winchester, Campbell especially, Tayama, who was already in the hospital, Slocum, and all known "dogs" Those 5 go-betweens did not succeed but they were arrested too.

On December 6 again they had a meeting at Kitchen 22. The agitators inside of the mob tried to forcefully get Uyeno and the 5 men out. Uyeno had been brought back to the Center at the time that they demanded his freedom, but he was being kept in the Manzanar jail. On December 6, the fateful day, another open meeting was held at Kitchen 22, outdoors. There the agitators incited the mob to take things into their own hands. Half of the group was to go to the hospital and was to finish off Tayama. The other half was to go toward the Administration and get Campbell and free those who had been taken into custody.

Well, by this time soldiers were in camp lined up on "A" street. The mob was there. It seemed that the head persons were behind the front line bystanders. The agitators were not in the front line. Those agitators, it seemed, wanted to stay in in the background and heckle rather than being in the front. The

agitators threw rocks at the Manzanar jail and at the soldiers too. It seemed that the agitators wanted the soldiers to fire upon the crowd. So the soldiers started throwing tear gas at the crowd to disperse them. Most of the crowd tried to disperse but by this time a soldier was shooting with his tommy gun. Several were injured at the time. One died instantly. He was an innocent bystander.

This is straight from block 22 block manager who was in the thick of it all the time. All the while that the Kitchen Work Corps was complaining about the sugar, complaining to Campbell and Winchester, they didn't realize that the warehouse workers were taking the sugar. It seemed that there is definite proof that one kitchen, namely number 10 used 3000 lbs. of sugar in one month. The food delivery crew was composed mostly of Terminal Island Kibeis. It was not Winchester or Campbell's fault that each kitchen did not get its share, because of the fact that the food distributors were mostly from blocks 9 and 10.

If Campbell had been ousted and if stricter control over the food distribution had been maintained, the incident would not have happened. Her is another thing. Slocum was supposed to have said he would be the last Jap in camp if at all. He said this back in Los Angeles. He said that he would never be put in a camp like this. It looked funny when he came then; as though he came for no good purpose.*

It seemed that the Blood Brothers, the B.B's, a kibel group, were out to get anybody who was connected with camouflage or J.A.C.L.

* It is my suspicion that Hosokawa too may have been sent to H. Mt. - ostensibly as a troublemaker - like Masuda + etc - for no good purpose.

The man who told me this said that Uyeno was pulled in on suspicion of beating up Tayama not because the police or administration had any evidence that he was one of the assailants, but because he was a dangerous agitator. So they got him first.

It seemed that Uyeno tried to get a job at the warehouse but was unable to do so. He thought that by getting in on the ground floor he could get evidence as to where the sugar went to. Rumor was flying thick and fast around that time as to having seen Campbell drive out of this center in a panel truck loaded with meat. It seems that Campbell is in the thick of it. They sure hated his guts. I never had contact with him but I heard plenty. This fellow said that Campbell was a ^{S.O.B.} ~~slab~~ and that if he had been dead and buried the whole thing wouldn't have happened. You see, Doc., Campbell tried to be a dictator in this camp, that's why. The whole thing came out of this sugar thing too.

I think the people in the center still don't know whether the sugar was actually stolen by Campbell or misappropriated by the food delivery crew.

This is what this fellow told me. It isn't the way I understood it up to now. I had understood that Campbell and Winchester were up to their necks in sugar. Not only sugar, but there was the meat problem too. But this fellow, though he didn't like Campbell, says that this wasn't it. He says that the food distributors were more to blame. He knew this but he couldn't tell. Those San Pedro boys are pretty tough and he didn't want

to get his neck in a sling. He says that in the warehouse they would just take a knife and slit down a bag of sugar. I can believe it because I have heard that eggs are delivered to the kitchens with the top row there only. Underneath the eggs are gone. Then the kitchen workers blame each other. Same with meat. Those fellows take their own boxes along and cut off pieces and throw them in there and the kitchens get shorted. If the kitchen workers complain to the food distributors about unfair distribution, the distributors lessen their allotment to that kitchen all the more. It seems that the whole damn squabble in the center is always food.

Kurihara was a fellow 35 or 40. He was a Hawaiian. He was bitter. He was an American Legionnaire and being stuck in a place like this nearly killed him. I first heard him speak December 5 outside kitchen 22 where the loud speaker was installed. He was definitely an agitator and I knew from the way he said things that it was just no good. He mentioned names, saying, "Let's go get so and so," and the crowd would respond, "Let's go get him." They didn't at that time, but they tried to later on.

They had a little misunderstanding that brought things to a head later on too. The spokesmen, those 5 men, thought that it was understood that Uyeno was to be freed within the Center, but the Administration only meant that he was to be brought back to the Manzanar jail from the Independence jail.

The fact that the incident happened on December 6 had nothing to do with it. Nobody thought of Pearl Harbor but the newspapers. That was just a coincidence. The fellow who told me this